Crop	Rs. per quintal
Bajra	525
Jowar	525
Ragi	525

(b) and (c) These Millets are procured by the State Governments to extend the benefits of MSP to the farmers as and when need arises. The State Governments retain the quantity required for the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) and the balance stock is disposed of by the FCI on "as is where is basis" by open auction/tender and the difference between the economic cost and disposal price is paid as subsidy to the concerned State Governments.

Reviewing the utility of National Commission on farmers

1831. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the role of the National Commission on farmers;

(b) the structure of the Commission;

(c) whether any original ideas have been offered by the Commission since its inception;

(d) whether Government have assessed the utility of this body; and

(e) the steps proposed to review the need of this body?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) The National Commission on Farmers was set up in February, 2004 to examine and recommend policies, programmes and measures on various issues confronting India Farmers and to suggest appropriate inverventions for improving the economic viability and sustainabiiity of diversified agriculture including horticulture, livestock, dairy and fisheries.

The Commission comprises of a Chairman, two full time Members, four part-time Members and a Member Secretary.

(c) The Commission has so far submitted two Interim Reports making

recommendations on various facets of agriculture and its allied sectors. The tenure of the Commission is upto 13th October, 2006 by which it is to submit its Final report to the Government.

(d) and (e) Since the Commission has its Terms of Reference, the question of review of the utility of the Commission does not arise.

Life Saving Support Insurance Scheme for small and medium farmers

1832. SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any recommendation by any Commission to inititate a Life Saving Support Insurance Scheme to save the small by medium farmers from the pitfalls of market;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to implement these recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) National Commission on Farmers (NCF) in its first report on 'serving farmers and saving farming' has recommended integrated life 'Saving Support Programme which *inter alia* includes improvement in the existing crop insurance system and introduction of an integrated insurance package covering accident/death/medical cover, loss to dwelling unit and other property.

(c) A Joint Group was constituted by the Government of India to study the improvements required in the existing crop insurance scheme. The Group has submitted its report and has suggested number of improvements. The Government, at present, is consulting different stakeholders for the improvements in the existing crop insurance scheme.

Assistance to Andhra Pradesh under new Agriculture Policy

1833. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the present trend of agricultural production in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) the extent to which assistance can be given to the farmers of the State under the new Agriculture Policy; and